

Quarterly Arkansas Conference Call with EPA  
Thursday, June 5, 2014

10 AM CST

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Attendance: Ashley Howard, Hannah Branning, Andy Waite, Jatin Mistry, José Rodriguez, Blake Atkins, Amy Camacho, Jeff Stone, Lyle Godfrey, Lance Jones, Amelia Tremble, Robin Michaels, David Bradley, Gregg Treadway, Teresa Lee

1. Staffing Updates

- ADH staffing updates
  - I. The ADH secretary position and the administrative position have been filled.
  - II. The CCR rule manager has been replaced by Lauran Nelson.
  - III. District 6 and District 1 have one open position each that will be refilled.
- EPA staffing updates
  - I. A co-Arkansas Drinking Water State Program Manager has been designated to provide additional support for Arkansas. Mr. José Rodriguez will share the program duties with Jatin. Mr. Rodriguez can be contacted at [Rodriguez.jose@epa.gov](mailto:Rodriguez.jose@epa.gov) or 214-665-8087.
  - II. EPA Region 6's Source Water Protection Branch has an acting Associate Director, Mr. James (Jim) R. Brown. Mr. Brown is acting for Stacey Dwyer who is on a detail until September. Mr. Brown can be contacted at: [Brown.jamesr@epa.gov](mailto:Brown.jamesr@epa.gov) or 214-665-3175.
  - III. EPA Region 6 reorganization talks are progressing and plans to be implemented by October 1, 2014.

2. PWSS/SRF

- Funding update and ULO
  - I. ADH's final 2014 allotment was \$957,000 and this amount has been awarded. Balance is \$369,602.
  - II. No news about the new award. No PWSS final workplan is to be submitted.
  - III. The DWSRF Final PER is being finalized today or tomorrow, and there were no comments from the state. EPA placed a statement about the increase of set-aside expenditures in the cover letter as follows: "EPA appreciates the state's increased focus on the DWSRF unliquidated obligations (ULOs) during the past year and for increasing the set-aside spending rate from 61 percent to 71 percent."
  - IV. EPA Received the AR IUP this week. The public

hearing is in mid-June, and comments will be received shortly thereafter.

V. EPA can award based on the draft plan and will start that award shortly after the review and commenting period. Target award date mid-July.

VI. Please note the set-aside workplans are due 90 days after the award.

- Future laboratory equipment needs for drinking water
  - I. ADH's Total Organic Carbon (TOC) analyzer was approved which started a conversation about equipment purchases and EPA Region 6 will offer any flexibility that we can.
  - II. ADH has a depreciation list of laboratory equipment extending to year 2027. In 2015, ADH hopes to replace the High Performance Liquid Chromatography equipment and the Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrophotometer.
- QMP expires 9-27-14; QAPP expires 11-5-14.
- New electronic system coming next year for applying. EPA does not have a lot of information right now but will send information as it comes along.

### 3. Capacity Development and Source Water Assessment Plans

- SWAP update
  - I. Ms. Amy Camacho from EPA Region 6 will travel to Arkansas to meet with the ADH Source Water Assessment Program at the end of July or early August.
  - II. Ms. Camacho will also start up quarterly calls related to Source Water Assessment activities in Region 6.
- Capacity Development and small system assistance
  - I. EPA Region 6 sent out comments to ARWA
  - II. ADH suggested an emphasis on board member training
  - III. EPA topics consisted of the following:
    1. Preparation for the Revised Total Coliform Rule. Introduce systems on how to fill out a Level 1 assessment.
    2. Assist water systems that have been triggered under Stage 2 to conduct more frequent sampling (annual sampling to every 90 days).
    3. Help systems prepare for sanitary surveys.
    4. Help water systems with water storage tank management to prevent tank stratification.
    5. Help rural water systems maintain a minimum chlorine disinfectant in the extreme parts of their distribution system with process control monitoring skills.
    6. Remind water systems of source water protection and to keep an eye of potential sources of contamination that can impact water sources.

#### 4. Enforcement

- EPA Region 6 Enforcement has received the current quarter's ETT list with ADH comments.
- ADH stated that there are 30 systems on the ETT list with 8 systems on the road to compliance.
- Watson Water Works has the most ETT points for the Arkansas data that were generated due to no certified operator under the Stage 2 DBPR rule.

#### 5. Data

- Progress on redundancy training for SDWIS
  - I. ADH is establishing a process to obtain redundancy support for state SDWIS activities.
  - II. The data process is long and ongoing. Current training activities consisted of submitting documents to EPA for the quarterly federal upload for Arkansas.
  - III. Several staff members have been selected to provide back up support for state SDWIS activities.
- Arkansas Drinking Water Watch
  - I. The process to set up Drinking Water Watch is dependent upon the approval actions of ADH's IT department.
  - II. A quarterly download for ADH's data will be sent to Mr. Andy Waite.
- SDWIS Prime
  - I. ADH will need to upgrade from SDWIS version 3.1 to 3.2
  - II. ADH is looking at late June to perform this upgrade.
  - III. ADH expressed concerns regarding SDWIS prime and access to its live data on the cloud server.

#### 6. Drinking Water

- CCR Update
  - I. ADH has about 40% of the state's CCR certified with about 30% of the reports distributed electronically.
  - II. The CCR trend in Arkansas favors paper CCRs rather than electronic CCRs.
  - III. ADH will conduct additional CCR training activities and outreach efforts in late Fall 2014 to prepare for CCRs due in 2015.
- LT2 sampling and contract update
  - I. Contract is in place to use Bioviere Labs for the next 6 years.
  - II. LT2 training sessions for the first round of systems will begin in July.
- Sanitary Surveys
  - I. ADH has conducted 329 field surveys.
  - II. ADH has finalized 315 survey reports.

- RTCR
    - I. ADH is moving forward toward requesting primacy for the RTCR.
    - II. ADH will attend the EPA Region 6 primacy guidance meeting in July.
    - III. ADH believes that it will have the primacy package to EPA in time and has the appropriate training and staff in place.
  - Crossett Update
    - I. EPA Region 6 has received a FOIA on the Crossett report.
    - II. Mr. Stone received a letter from the Mayor's office regarding the Crossett community meeting thanking ADH for their support for the Crossett Water Commission.
7. Assistance from EPA Region 6
- Sanitary Survey Training is available.
  - Data Training (Mark/Andy) is available.
8. The Next Quarterly Arkansas Conference Call with EPA is scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 2014 from 10 AM to 11 AM.